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1930

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Vories' New Seedling Peonies



Frankie Curtis

MW,

One 1930 Thought Concerning Vories' Seedlings

1839 OVERTON PARK AVENUE

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

May 7-30

Dear Judge Vories — Your seaper five
Peones have behaved perfectly in
my Garden this season.
Fanny Lee and Clep Vories were bright
high lights — lovely rods. Nancy Dolman
is opening now, a gougeous beauty —
such sturdy stems — such huge blooms.
For my climate I wish it would
open a few weeks earlier. Next season
I am going to put an awning over it.
Frankie Curtis is perfection. It has not
a flaw — I believe this is my favorite.
Peony lovers owe you a debt of
gratitude for giving us the joy
of your creations. On my own
behalf I thank you.

Sincerely —

(Mrs) Beyle W. Fontaine

1924---History---1924

*H*AVING for a number of years followed the legal profession, practicing at the bar, and now on the bench, which made outdoor life more or less necessary, I became the willing devotee of Mother Nature.

Some fifteen years ago the peony attracted my special attention; I began the formation of a peony garden which soon contained many of the finest varieties of that flower, including single, Japanese and double in form. My interest at once became centered in seedlings, and after planting a system of seed selection, I began the planting of seed. At the very first I was fortunate, as out of the first planting I secured Frankie Curtis, and out of subsequent plantings, Alex D. Vories, Laura Vories, Henry Vories, Lady Kate, Nancy Dolman, Bishop Burke, Mary Vories and Fanny Lee, which are, this year, offered to the public for the first time.

For several years these varieties have blossomed in my garden without a thought of dividing, or selling them, until the demand for plants became so insistent that at last I consented to divide them, in order that my neighbors, who considered them so fine, might also enjoy them in their gardens.

However, I determined not to offer them to the public until I had obtained the judgment of those in control of an annual exhibition given by the American Peony Society, which, fortunately, was this year, held at Des Moines, Iowa, in easy distance of my home. Unfortunately, however, my inexperience in preparing bloom for show purposes, and especially for cold storage, resulted in some of the bloom being unfit for exhibition and none of them in first-class condition. I also had to contend with a drought of six weeks, which occurred at the very time the peony buds were forming. Nevertheless, I considered my bloom of Frankie Curtis and Nancy Dolman sufficiently good to enter in several classes, with this result:

The Nancy Dolman won the silver medal offered by the Garden Club of America for the best new seedling exhibited at this show. This peony also was given second prize for the best specimen bloom in the show. The Frankie Curtis won the J. A. Taylor prize of \$100.00 for new seedling of special merit that scored at least nine points out of a possible ten. The Frankie Curtis also was awarded,

by the American Peony Society, a first-class certificate of merit, this being, I am informed, the highest award made any seedling this year in Class 16.

The Frankie Curtis also was exhibited at the Peony Show given by the Garden Club of the City of St. Joseph this Spring (1924), and won the silver cup offered for the best bloom exhibited at that show.

Aside from the beauty, size and distinctiveness of the bloom of my seedlings, their chief characteristic is the length and strength of stem. Many could not believe that such stems could grow on normal plants and some even ventured to ask if I possessed some secret method of feeding my plants. The flowers exhibited at Des Moines grew in my garden, on eight or ten-year-old plants, without a stimulant of any kind, no fertilizer of any kind having been used this season. About once every two years I fork in a light covering of barnyard manure and that is all: the truth is, my plants are of extraordinary strength, a fact universally conceded by all who have visited my garden and witnessed them growing side by side with other fine varieties. It takes strong plants to produce such flowers as are described herein.



1 9 3 0

Last year I was unable to find time to prepare and send out catalogue of seedlings. In doing so this year I am gratified at being able, on account of increased stock, to reduce the price on some of my best varieties. I am also adding four new varieties, which I am sure will please, as all have been thoroughly tested, and can be recommended. All roots standard 3 to 5 eyes.

Address all correspondence to

JUDGE L. A. VORIES,

Court House,

St. Joseph, Missouri.

Something New for 1930

Sarah M. Napier

This is a new and distinct variety, exhibited for the first time at Peoria, Illinois, as Double No. 3J. Many who attended the show at Peoria will remember this peony, as many asked that I take orders then for this variety, all of which were refused, because of lack of stock. I will be able to take orders for no more than 20 roots this season, only one root to an order. The bloom is rose type, somewhat flat, outer petals dark rose shading lighter to the center, good plant and stem, with coloring distinct.

It has been named for Mrs. Richard A. Napier, of Blue Island, Illinois, who regards this as her favorite peony.

Sarah M. Napier, \$25.00

Robert Lee Davis

A fine large bloom, double, rose type, white with fine shadings of light pink and salmon, good plant and stem. I have received splendid reports on this variety from a few to whom I sent out roots for their opinion.

Robert Lee Davis, \$10.00

Mrs. R. M. Bacheller

This is a fine new white, double, good plant and stem, bloom rose type, the center of which almost glows in its richness, remarkable in its purity. Its fragrance should place it in any garden. Only ten roots for sale this season.

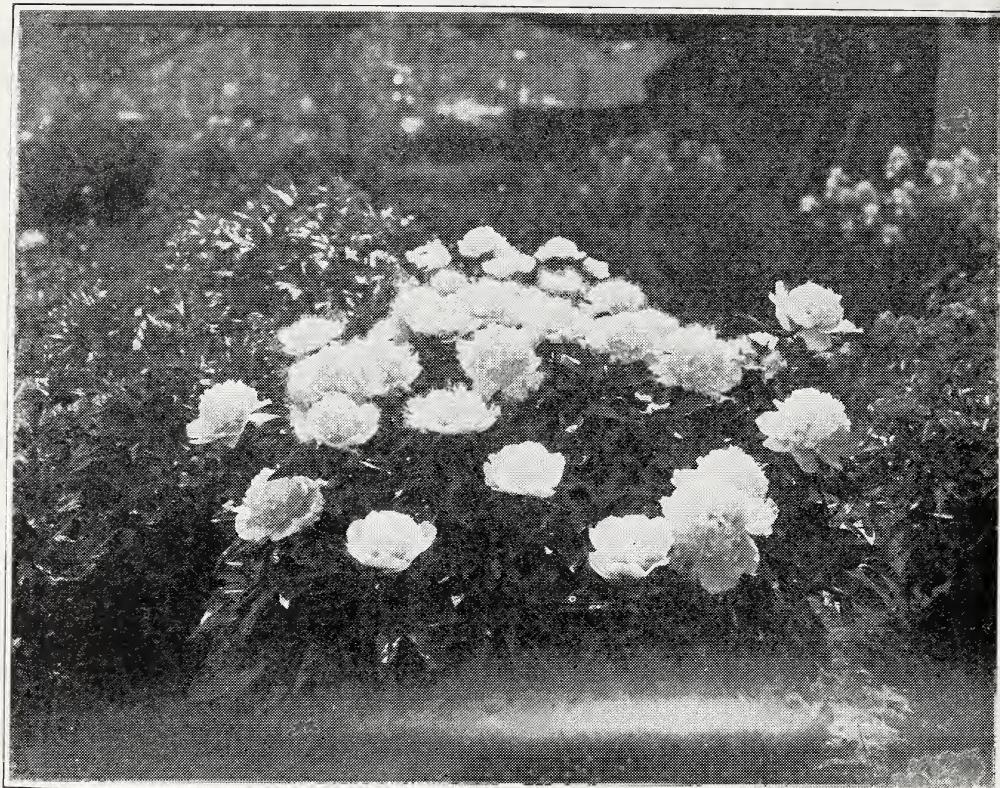
Mrs. R. M. Bacheller, \$20.00

Largo

A very fine large bloomer. Japanese type, which has received the commendation of all who have seen it. Fine plant and stem, guard petals pink with very large center, somewhat lighter pink. I can fully recommend it and say return it if you do not like it.

Largo, \$10.00

Frankie Curtis



10-Year Old Plant, Frankie Curtis—May, 1928

The center of this peony is as large as Mons Jules Elie, as compact as a chrysanthemum and sits proudly in a cup of large guard petals. At first glance you would take it to be pure white, but a close inspection will disclose light pink shadings on center petals. It really looks like a large chrysanthemum. The habit of the plant is perfection, strong stems holding bloom upright. Should you purchase only one peony this year, let it be Frankie Curtis. It will satisfy any peony lover in the land. Medium early. Above is cut of plant in full bloom, May, 1928.

Frankie Curtis, \$15.00

Lady Kate



Plant, Lady Kate—May, 1928

This is a large, rather flat, rose formed bloom, of perfect shape, solid color, light pink. It has a distinct color and wonderfully beautiful and will eventually be regarded as highly among the pink peonies as Frankie Curtis is among the whites. The plant is very tall and the stems strong. I pronounce it one of the most beautiful peonies I have ever seen and so will you. One of the latest to bloom. Above is plant in full bloom in May, 1928.

Lady Kate, \$15.00

Nancy Dolman

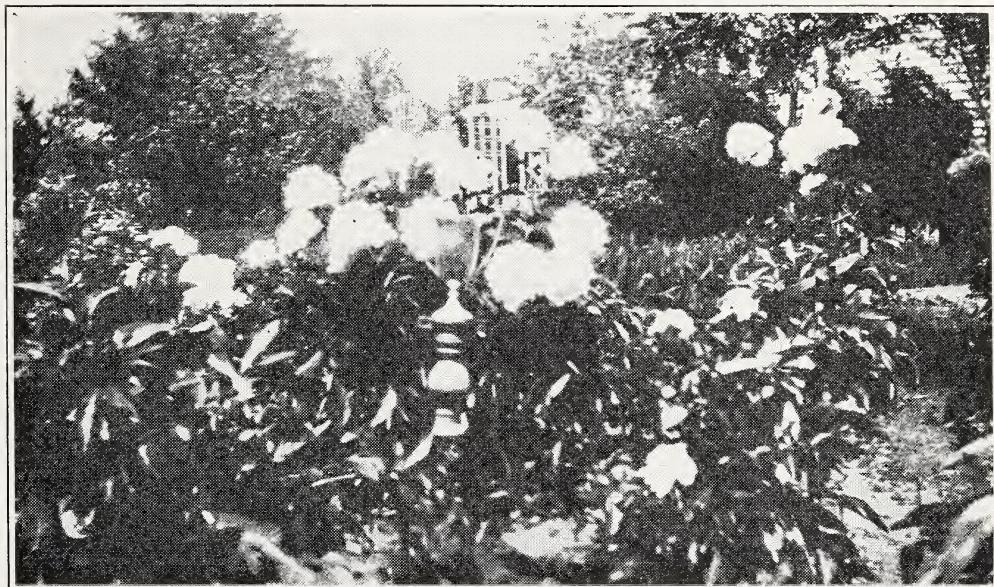


4-Year-Old Plant, Nancy Dolman—May, 1928

This is the largest plant with the longest, strongest stems upholding the largest bloom of any peony with which I am familiar. It usually takes ten days after a bud breaks before flower is in full bloom, so compact is it. The color is beautiful pink, the blossom round in shape and your first bloom will so please and surprise you that you will at once call in your friends to share it with you. Very late. Above is plant in full bloom in June, 1928.

Nancy Dolman, \$25.00

Mary Vories



Plant, Mary Vories With Cup Won May, 1927

Somewhat on the order of Laura Vories, except that it is pure-white and more open in form. Makes a grand plant with fine, strong stems. One of the last to bloom and one of the best late whites in existence. You can make no mistake in placing this in your collection.

Mary B. Vories, \$8.00

Bishop Burke

This peony is distinct in every way and I can safely say that you have nothing in your garden that looks anything like it. I have asked many ladies of taste to describe it for me and have had a different description each time. The plant has a beautiful habit: looks like it is so proud of its flowers it holds everyone erect. The blooms are all large and look like they come out of the same mold. When in full bloom it causes visitors in other parts of the garden to pause and say, "What is that wonderful plant over there?" I named it "Bishop Burke" because he, when visiting the garden, exclaimed, "This is your most wonderful bloom." It is a shade of crimson with a silvery sheen. The petals are all waves and entirely different from all others and yet the blossom is perfect in form, absolutely distinct. Not as a single blossom, but as a plant in full bloom, I unhesitatingly state, it is the most attractive plant I have ever seen. Mid-season.

Bishcp Burke, \$10.00

Laura Vories

This peony in shape and form resembles Mignon, but, in my opinion, is better in every way. It has a large flower, splendid stems and a perfect habit. The color is white with blush pink centers, with thread-like crimson edge on some of central petals. The fresh full blossom simply entrances. A larger dealer in peonies saw this in my garden and immediately stated, "That peony will make a name for itself anywhere," and it will. Late mid-season.

Laura Vories, \$10.00

Henry M. Vories

This is a very large flat bloom, as large as and shaped somewhat like a large LaFrance, every blossom perfect and held erect on a plant of perfect habit. The blossoms are of wonderful substance, more so than any with which I am acquainted. The color is distinct. I can only describe it as a solid color, light pink shade, darker to the center. It is quite distinct and you will have to grow it and then perhaps you will be surprised, as well as delighted with its distinctiveness. One of the last to bloom.

Henry M. Vories, \$10.00

Alex D. Vories

A very large plant with long, strong stems, on the end of which you will find the largest red blossom I have ever seen. Color, red, American Beauty shade. It is one of the real features with visitors to my garden and will not disappoint. Mid-season.

Alex D. Vories, \$10.00

Deedie May

This is a new, very early white, large, rather flat bloom. A few crimson markings on center petals, with crimson thread-edge on some of petals. An especially fine bloom, commencing to bloom just a little before Festima Maxima. Plant one of the finest in my collection, with stems long and strong.

Deedie May, \$10.00

Pitti Sinn

This variety was really named by a lisping child, who, roaming with me through the garden, suddenly came upon a fresh bloom of this variety, the child stopped, and looking up at me, pointed her finger at the blossom exclaiming, "Pitty sing" (pretty thing). The child expressed my thoughts so exactly that I named the variety at once. It is a medium sized bloom with several rows of pink guard petals upon which rests a circle of narrow straw colored petals, in the center of which, spreading out as it opens, is a fine tuft of pink petals. You, like the child, will like it. One of the last to bloom.

Pitti Sinn, \$5.00

Fanny Lee

A very distinct shade of American Beauty red, rich and velvety. Plant and stem good, blossom medium to large. It will certainly become a favorite variety with you as it has with me. Mid-season.

Fanny Lee, \$5.00

